

Members

Sen. Edward Charbonneau, Chairperson
Sen. Randall Head
Sen. Sue Errington
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Vanessa Summers
Rep. Dennis Tyler
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Rep. Phil Hinkle
John Taylor
Dave Becker
Hugh Beebe
Dr. Gladys Beale
Michael Carmin
Dr. Robin Murphy



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 13, 2009
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: Psychiatry Building, 1111 West 10th
Street, A310
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Edward Charbonneau, Chairperson; Sen. Randall Head;
Sen. Sue Errington; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Vanessa
Summers; Rep. Dennis Tyler; Rep. Phil Hinkle; Hugh Beebe;
Michael Carmin; Dr. Robin Murphy.

Members Absent: Rep. Cleo Duncan; John Taylor; Dave Becker; Dr. Gladys Beale.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and then called upon Peter Nalin, M.D., Albert E. Sterne Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM), to speak. Dr. Nalin greeted the Commission and informed the Commission that the IUSM and its affiliated institutions provide a wide range of educational and clinical experiences for learning about autism and caring for autistic individuals and families affected by the disorder. He stated that the next three speakers from IUSM would share a description of the many educational venues in which IUSM students, resident physicians, and fellows learn about autism and related disorders.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be obtained electronically by requesting copies at licrequests@iga.in.gov. Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

(Exhibit A)

Christopher McDougale, M.D., IUSM, gave an historic overview of adult and child psychiatry and explained how autism and related disorders are addressed at IUSM and the Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center (Center). He presented information concerning the medical education programming at IUSM, which includes exposing medical students to autism during their second year of medical school through lectures; requiring third year medical students to attend autism lectures and rotate through clinical clerkships in psychiatry where they learn to screen for developmental disabilities; and offering electives in autism for fourth year medical students. He also stated that residency programs include lecture series on autism, clinics where the residents learn to screen for and diagnose autism, training in performing procedures on children and youth with autism, and experiences in inpatient care and primary care. (Exhibit B)

Dr. McDougale informed the Commission that the Center is unique because it serves children, adolescents and adults with autism. He stated that the Center is the largest autism center in the country and the only academic autism center. It serves over four thousand patients and performs 500 new patient evaluations a year. He explained there are not enough residency positions available each year in psychiatry in order to keep up with the need for services for autistic individuals.

In response to questions by Commission members Errington, Murphy, Hinkle, and Beebe, Dr. McDougale stated that adults with autism usually live with their parents or in a group home and are in need of job training, job placement, and financial subsidies. He also stated that about 1% of the autistic population goes to college or gets married. He suggested that the legislature could increase the availability of services for those with autism by providing more money for medical students who choose to study child psychiatry and specialize in autism and by creating loan repayment programs for psychiatry residents who specialize in autism.

Mary Ciccarelli, M.D., Associate Chair for Education, Department of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Surgical Education, part-time, presented information concerning the Center for Youth and Adults with Conditions of Childhood (CYACC). The CYACC provides interdisciplinary care and consultative services for youth and young adult patients ages 11-22, as well as adult patients with developmental disabilities and serious chronic illness through the following:

- (1) Team: Doctors, nurses, social workers, parent liaisons, community advocates.
- (2) Consultative services: medical, psychological, vocational, parenting, independent living, health care financing, community resources.
- (3) Development of an Individual Health Assessment and Plan: includes current health information, medical history, functional status, care suggestions, service provider information, long and short term goals.
- (4) Care coordination: Provide advocacy and service referrals to maximize quality of life and inclusion in the community.
- (5) Education: Teach physicians in training for future care of youth and adults with conditions of childhood.
- (6) Research: Offer opportunities for families to participate in data collection to improve care of youth with similar issues in the future.

Dr. Ciccarelli gave an overview of IUSM education programs for residents in child

psychiatry, psychiatry, otolaryngology, dermatology, child neurology, emergency medicine, combined pediatrics psychiatry and child psychiatry, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and dental anesthesia. She stated that there are continuing medical education opportunities on the topic of autism for community physicians through: the annual Riley Pediatric Conference, the Center Annual Conference, the Rural Health Conference, and the Indiana University Medical Home Hospitalist Group lecture. An autism toolkit and screening posters are available online, by request, and through local physician liaisons. These items are demonstrated at statewide meetings to promote utilization of these resources. (Exhibit C)

Paula Wales, M.D. Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs and Associate Professor of Surgical Education, part-time, presented information concerning curriculum development for medical students. She stated that IUSM is looking to add elective activities such as longitudinal experiences for medical students in partnering with families, youth with autism and developmental disabilities and adding the Ages and Stages Questionnaire screening and the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers to basic skills competency requirements for all third year medical students. (Exhibit D)

Kim Dodson, The Arc of Indiana (ARC), updated the Commission on recent ARC activities. Their activities include: building relationships with state agencies and professional organizations, educating the legislature on autism, evaluating the need and feasibility of regional resource centers for autism, and evaluating health insurance issues concerning autism services.

Dana Renay, Autism Society of Indiana (Society), distributed updated information concerning the Indiana Interagency Coordinating Council created in Indiana's Comprehensive State Plan To Guide Services For Individuals With Autism (Plan). (Exhibit E) Commission members reviewed the document and then recommended by consent that the Society update the Plan to include a plan for the autistic adult population in Indiana.

The Commission recommended that the Society present a status report to the Commission in the 2010 interim of the General Assembly that encompasses the plan to address the autistic adult population in Indiana.

In response to Commission member Michael Carmin's question concerning whether funding for group homes has been cut, Mr. Bisbecos, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, stated that there have been no recent cuts in funding and no expansions in group homes in Indiana. Mr. Bisbecos informed the Commission that the perception of whether funding has been cut may be attributed to a preference in favor of waivers and away from group homes that occurred in 1999.

Senator Sipes presented preliminary bill draft (PD) 3086 concerning autism training for school personnel. (Exhibit F) After Commission discussion, the Commission recommended that the language in PD 3086 requiring school personnel to be trained in appropriately dealing with individuals with autism be introduced as a resolution during the 2010 session of the General Assembly.

In response to Rep. Tyler's question concerning the state police health insurance plan, Major Brad Scully, Indiana State Police, stated that the state police health insurance plan covers approximately 2,800 subscribers and autism services were excluded in 2004 based on the costs. Francine Rowley-Lacy, Legislative Services Agency, distributed a memorandum based on information provided by the Indiana State Police concerning the cost of adding autism services coverage to the state police health insurance plan. (Exhibit G)

The Commission unanimously adopted its final report with nine members present and with the understanding that the report will be modified to include actions taken during the Commission's October 13, 2009 meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.